

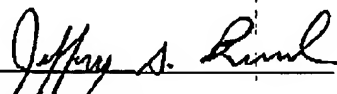
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REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect without traverse the invention of claims 11-18 and 20-23 drawn to a method of processing an optical fiber for further prosecution on the merits. Claims 1-10 and 19 are hereby canceled, without prejudice and subject to reinstatement in the event the restriction requirement is withdrawn or determined improper. Accordingly, claims 11-18 and 20-23 remain pending in the application. Applicants reserve the right to re-file the canceled claims in one or more continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part applications.

This response being fully responsive to the Office Action, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. This response does not result in more independent or total claims than paid for previously. Accordingly, no fee for excess claims is due. The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any other fee due in connection with the filing of this response to Deposit Account No. 19-2167. If an extension of time not already accounted for is required with this response, Applicants hereby petition for such extension of time and the Examiner is likewise authorized to charge the petition fee to Deposit Account No. 19-2167.

Respectfully submitted,


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